

CLAIMS

Sub B
1. A method for generating a video image of an object comprising;

generating video data representing a video frame for forming the video image of said object;

dividing each video frame into a plurality of regions, each region being representative of a portion of said object;

selecting at least a predetermined one of said plurality of regions;

recombining said regions of each of said video frames to form a display video image; and

displaying said display video image such that said selected region of said video frame is formed as a sharp image, and remaining regions of said video frame of said display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and a reference point.

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising;

transmitting video data indicative of each region of said video frames to a receiver, prior to said step of recombining the regions of each of said video frames.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region defining a foreground object.

Sub a 17
4. The method as claimed in any preceding, wherein said step of selecting said region comprises an observer selecting a region of the object.

Sub a 17
5. The method as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said step of selecting said region comprises

selecting a region of said video frame according to the position of an object relative to at least one other object.

Suba 17

6. The method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region of said video frame defining an active entity.

Suba 17

7. The method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said step of dividing said video image into a plurality of regions comprises dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane.

8. The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the step of dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane comprises dividing said video image into regions wherein each focal plane is representative of a different distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.

Suba 17

Suba 17

9. The method as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising;

following said step of selecting at least a predetermined one of said plurality of regions, de-emphasising remaining regions of said display video image.

10. The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said step of selecting at least a predetermined one of said plurality of regions comprises de-emphasising remaining portions of said video image according to the distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.

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11. ~~The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said step of de-emphasising remaining portions of said video image comprises applying greater de-emphasis to regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having a greater distance between the respective portion of said object and said reference point than regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having a smaller distance between the respective portion of the object and the reference point.~~

Sub a3
12. The method as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 11 further comprising;
artificially generating each remaining region of the video image.

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13. ~~The method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said step of generating video data comprises monitoring an object with a video camera to produce one or more video frames.~~

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14. The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the step of displaying said video image comprises displaying said video frame such that remaining regions of the display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and said video camera.

Sub a4
15. The method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said step of generating video data comprises generating a sequence of video frames, and said step of displaying said display video image comprises displaying a sequence of video frames.

Sub B2
16. A system for generating a video image of an object comprising;

circuitry for generating video data representing video frames for forming the video image of said object;

circuitry for dividing each video frame into a plurality of regions such that each region is representative of a portion of said object; and

means for selecting at least a predetermined one of said plurality of regions from said received video data;

circuitry for recombining said regions of each of said video frames to form a display video image; and

a display for displaying said a video frames of said display video image such that said selected region is formed as a sharp image, and remaining regions of said display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and a reference point.

17. The system as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising;

means for transmitting video data indicative of each region of said video frame to a receiver.

18. The system as claimed in Claim 16 or Claim 17, wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region defining a foreground object.

19. The system as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 18, wherein said means for selecting are arranged such that an observer can select a region of the monitored object.

20. The system as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 18, wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region of said video frame according to the position of an object relative to at least one other object.

21. The system as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 20, wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region of said video frame defining an active entity.

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22. The system as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 21, wherein said circuitry for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions is arranged for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane.

23. ~~The system as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said circuitry for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane is arranged for dividing said video image into regions wherein each focal plane is representative of a different distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.~~

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24. The system as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 23 further comprising;

circuitry for de-emphasising remaining regions of said display video image.

25. ~~The system as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said de-emphasising circuitry is arranged for de-emphasising remaining portions of said video image according to the distance between a respective portion of said object and said reference point.~~

26. The system as claimed in Claim 25, wherein de-emphasising circuitry is arranged for applying greater de-emphasis to regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having a greater distance between the respective portion of said object and said reference point than regions of the video image that are representative of portions of the object having

~~a smaller distance between the respective portion of the object and the reference point.~~

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27. The system as claimed in any of Claims 24 to 26 further comprising;

means for artificially generating each remaining region of the video image.

28. The method as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 27, wherein said circuitry ^A for generating video data comprises a video camera for monitoring an object to produce one or more video frames.

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29. The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the display is capable of displaying said video frame such that remaining regions of the display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and said video camera.

30. The method as claimed in any of Claims 16 to 29, wherein circuitry ^A for generating video data is arranged for generating a sequence of video frames, and said display is arranged for displaying a sequence of video frames.